

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FLORIDA SCHOOLCHILDREN

Not all students learn the same way. That's why Step Up For Students exists: to give those Florida schoolchildren who need it most, the learning options that work best for them.

Step Up For Students is a nonprofit scholarship funding organization that helps administer five programs for Florida schoolchildren:

Income-Based Scholarships

Two scholarships are available for lower-income students: the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship** and **Family Empowerment Scholarship**. Both scholarships give students an option to find the best schools to meet their K-12 learning needs.

Special Needs Scholarship

The **Gardiner Scholarship** helps Florida families customize education for their children with certain special needs who are ages 3 through 22. The scholarship covers 17 diagnoses, including autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, intellectual disability, spina bifida and traumatic brain injury. Parents can use scholarship money toward a combination of approved programs and providers that best meet their children's unique learning needs.

Bullied Student Scholarship

The **Hope Scholarship Program** provides relief to students bullied in a public school. It gives them an opportunity to transfer to a K-12 public school with capacity in another district or to request a scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school. To qualify, the incident must have taken place at a public K-12 educational institution, any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity, including riding on the school bus or waiting at the bus stop.

Reading Help Scholarship

The **Reading Scholarship Accounts program** is an education savings account program for third- through fifth-grade students enrolled in public schools who scored a 1 or 2 on the third or fourth grade English Language Arts section of the Florida Standards Assessment in the prior year. Worth \$500 each, these educational savings accounts help parents access programs and providers to help their children improve their reading skills. Students who are classified as English Language Learners, and who are enrolled in a program or receiving services that are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner students, will receive priority.



Program funds are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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